



News Archive

September 2007 – August 2008

2008: Congratulations to Peter Allen

Peter has been awarded a share of the LSE Robert McKenzie Prize 2007/8 for his PhD in Mathematics. This prize is awarded each year by the School in recognition of outstanding academic performance.

2008: Commiserations and congratulations to LSE's University Challenge team

Commiserations to the team, which included the Mathematics Department's Marianne Fairthorne, on losing narrowly to Manchester University in the quarter-finals of this year's University Challenge, but congratulations too on getting to the last eight.

2008: Congratulations Ioanna Katrantzi

Operational Research student Ioanna was successfully examined for her PhD on Friday 21st November 2008. Although a student in OR, Ioanna began her PhD in the Mathematics Department and was supervised by Professor Steve Alpern throughout her studies.

August 2008: Congratulations to Marta Casetti

Marta won the Haya Freedman Prize for 'Best Dissertation' 2007/8.

August 2008: LSE Mathematics hosts Seventh International Workshop in Search Games and Rendezvous

On 11 August, the LSE hosted the Seventh International Workshop in Search Games and Rendezvous. Sponsored by the Operational Research Group and CDAM, the day saw the presentation of five lectures on various aspects of the field.

The morning session concentrated on 'search', as in 'job-search', in economics, where the problem faced by a player is when to stop the search and when to continue (in the hope of finding a better job). In game theoretic applications, there are two groups of players (say males and females), so in fact these are 'mate selection' games. David Ramsey (University of Limerick, Ireland) spoke on a model where individuals have two characteristics that affect their attractiveness to the opposite sex, namely 'beauty and character'. Beauty is observable but character requires the cost of a 'date' to assess. He calculated the Nash Equilibria of these games.

A related talk was given by Ioanna Katrantzi (L.S.E.), who considered a model in which individuals have a single characteristic (integer), their age, which goes up by one each period until they are either mated or reach the maximum fertile age for their sex.

A final talk in this area was given by Shmuel Gal (Haifa, Israel), who considered a version of the well known 'secretary problem'. In his version, two interviewers (with different selection priorities, such as one caring about IT skills and the other about typing) have to select a candidate from a string of

applicants. They each are given an initial stock of 'vetos', which they may use to nix a candidate approved by the other. There are equilibria where they try to get the other interviewer to use up his vetos, and also equilibria where neither ever uses a veto.

The afternoon session began with a talk by Robbert Fokkink (Technical University of Delft, Netherlands) about accumulations games: A Hider has total wealth h which he disperses among n locations; the Searcher confiscates the material from r of these, and the Hider wins if what remains is enough to carry out some task (say enough nuts to survive the winter).

Then Jimmy Fan (Cambridge) spoke about solutions to some discrete symmetric rendezvous problems posed by Steve Alpern and John Howard. The classic problem is how two friends should go about meeting, when they have agreed to have lunch at the Mozart Café in Prague, but on arriving in the city find there are three such cafes. What is the minimum number of days, on average, that they will need to meet at the same one at the same time?

The workshop also hosted many useful informal discussions among the participants, after the talks and during the workshop lunch and dinner. This year, the Workshop was in honour of the retirements of two leaders in the field: Shmuel Gal and John Howard.

July 2008: Cyril Offord Prize

The Offord Prize for 2008 was awarded jointly to Sakhee Joisher and Neelan Santhirajah for their outstanding achievements on the BSc Mathematics and Economics. [Click here for more.](#)

2008: Mathematics Department Class Teachers win LSE Teaching Prizes

The Department of Mathematics would like to congratulate Ioanna Katrantzi, Dr Ioannis Kouletsis and Raminder Ruprai on winning three of the School's Graduate and Guest Teacher Prizes 2008. These are awarded annually by LSE's Teaching and Learning Committee based on a number of factors, including the termly surveys of students' opinions of class teaching. Each of the three achieved excellent scores and student feedback.

We would like to thank all our class teachers for their excellent work over the last year.

2008: Congratulations to Tom Bates

Tom, an applicant to the MSc in Applicable Mathematics to start 2008, is the first recipient of the Advent Software Scholarship.

2008: Welcome to new staff

Two new members of academic staff will be joining the Department in September. Professor Olivier Gossner joins us half-time from Paris-Jourdan Sciences Economiques, and Dr Arne Lokka comes to us from the Mathematics Department at King's College London.

2008: PhD successes

Our congratulations go to PhD students Peter Allen, Luis Cereceda and part-time PhD Snezana Pejic who were all successfully examined for their PhDs this year. Peter was supervised by Graham Brightwell; Luis and Snezana were supervised by Jan van den Heuvel.

2008: Educational Research Grant for LSE Mathematicians

A team from the Mathematics department has been successful in attracting research funding from the University of London Centre for Distance Education.

The project, snappily entitled 'Formulating and testing guidelines for online learning in support of mathematics learning in a diverse student group', will investigate the principles that should inform the design and implementation of web-based 'virtual tutors' for mathematical subjects. Such virtual tutors are designed to perform the tutor-driven functions of diagnosing a problem, providing materials that are tailored to resolving the problem and then consolidating the material related to the problem in order to increase students' confidence. Virtual tutors of this type could be useful to students on the University of London External Programme (many of whom are studying on their own) and also to students of LSE's mathematical courses, as a supplement to existing provision.

The project team is: Martin Anthony (project leader), Jan van den Heuvel, James Ward and Mark Baltovic.

2008: Congratulations to Malwina Luczak

Malwina Luczak has been promoted to Reader.

October 2007: Congratulations to Justas Bugnevičius

Justas won the Haya Freedman Prize for 'Best Dissertation' 2006/7.

September 2007: Mathematics Department Class Teachers win LSE Teaching Prizes

The Department of Mathematics would like to congratulate Peter Allen, Dr Ioannis Kouletsis and Raminder Ruprai on winning three of the School's Occasional Teacher Prizes 2007. These are awarded annually by LSE's Teaching and Learning Committee based on a number of factors, including the termly surveys of students' opinions of class teaching.

We would like to thank all our class teachers for their excellent work over the last year.

September 2007: Amol Sasane wins Teaching Prize

Congratulations to Amol, a lecturer in the Maths Department, who has just won a Major Review Teaching Prize at LSE. These prizes are awarded for outstanding teaching performance above and beyond that required to pass Major Review.